

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03593 01 OF 02 201222Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 SS-15 /026 W  
-----099770 201225Z /11

O 201020Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5828

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 3593

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR NEA/ONLY VELIOTES FROM PICKERING

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: OREP, PGOV, EAID, JO, US  
SUBJECT: MAQARIN DAM

1. FOLLOWING UP OUR TELECON OF APRIL 19, WE HAVE SOME THOUGHTS ON WHAT MIGHT BE SAID TO SENATORS JAVITS, PERCY AND CLARKE REGARDING MAQARIN. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SENATE STAFF MEMBERS THAT CASE AND STONE, ALONG WITH JAVITS, MAY BE LEADING THE CASE AGAINST MAQARIN IN SFRC. IN THAT CASE, PERCY AND CLARKE WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO HAVE WITH US AND THERE IS SOME FEELING THAT JAVITS IS OPEN MINDED. CERTAINLY LAKELAND CALZLLYXIRM THAT. A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED APPROACH MAY BE BEST WITH HIM. DRAFT BELOW CONTAINS OUR THOUGHTS ON POINTS WHICH WE UNDERSTAND ARE CONTROVERSIAL.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR SENATOR,

(PARA 1) I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WILL SHORTLY BE CONSIDERING IN THE QUTHORIZATION BILL MARK UP PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE MAQARIN DAM (JORDAN VALLEY IRRIGATION) PROJECT. I AM TAKING THE LIBERTY OF WRITING TO YOU BECAUSE OF THE  
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IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT TO OUR POLITICAL EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS WELL AS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A VITAL AREA OF AJORDAN IN A REGION WHICH TOUCHES CLOSELY THE INTERESTS OF THREE COUNTRIES (JORDAN, ISRAEL, SYRIA) AS WELL AS THE PALESTINIANS ON THE WEST BANK.

(PARA 2) MANY HAVE ASKED ME WHY IT IS THAT KING HUSSEIN HAS NOT

JOINED THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL WHICH WERE OPENED BY PRESIDENT SADAT AND, THEREFORE, WHY JORDAN SHOULD BE FURTHER ASSISTED? THE ANSWER IS CLEARLY THAT KING HUSSEIN IS READY TO JOIN THESE NEGOTIATIONS WHEN IT IS APPARENT THAT THEY CAN BE BASED ON THE APPLICATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 TO ALL THE FRONTS AND PROMISE TO LEAD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH NEGOTIATION OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A SETTLEMENT POSTULATED IN THAT RESOLUTION -- THE EXCHANGE OF TERRITORY FOR A FULL PEACE. AS YOU KNOW, UP UNTIL NOW, THE POSITION OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS RULED OUT WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WEST BANK OVER WHICH THE KING WOULD BE NEGOTIATING.

(PARA 3) WHILE MAQARIN CANNOT SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, IT CAN PROVIDE AN INCREASING STAKE IN THE STABILITY OF THE REGION ALONG THE BORDERS OF THE TWO STATES, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH CAN HELP IMPROVE THE CLIMATE FOR SETTLEMENT. THIS SHOULD FURTHER ENGENDER CONFIDENCE AND WILL NECESSARILY REQUIRE THE COOPERATION OF BOTH THE STATES CONCERNED, --COOPERATION BORN OF A MUTUAL RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF EACH OTHER.

(PARA 4) SOME HAVE ASKED ABOUT A DELAY IN THE PROJECT UNTIL THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN THE REGION IMPROVES. WHILE WE ALL WORK FOR SUCH AN IMPROVEMENT, THE VITAL DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES WHICH THE DAM WILL SERVE ARE NEEDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT WILL PROVIDE PRODUCTIVE IRRIGATED FARM LAND IN THE  
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JORDAN VALLEY FOR A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHICH IN ITSELF IS AN OBJECTIVE WORTH THE INVESTMENT. CONTINUAL DELAYS UNTIL THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IS RIGHT MIGHT WELL MEAN A LONG OR INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT, MUCH AS WE HOPE THAT OUR PRESENT EFFORTS TO FIND PEACE WILL LEAD TO SUCCESS SOON.

(PARA 5) WITH RESPECT TO ASSURING THAT THE WATER RIGHTS OF ALL PARTIES ARE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED, WE HAVE PLAYED A GOOD OFFICES ROLE UP TO THE PRESENT IN WORKING TO ACHIEVE A SOLUTION TO THIS QUESTION. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY JORDAN THAT THE RIGHTS OF THE OTHER PARTIES TO AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF WATER AT THE TIME AND PLACE IT WILL BE REQUIRED WILL BE MET. IN THE MEANTIME, ISRAEL CONTINUES TO RECEIVE WATER FROM THE YARMOUK AS IT HAS DONE IN THE PAST. THERE ARE SOME CONTINUING TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS TO BE WORKED OUT. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, GIVEN GOOD WILL AND PROSPECTIVE PROGRESS ON THE MAIN ISSUES OF THE PEACE, THAT THESE ISSUES SHOULD NOW STAND IN THE WAY OF GOING AHEAD. INDEED, WE BELIEVE THERE IS EVERY REASONABLE CHANCE THAT THEY CAN BE WORKED OUT WELL BEFORE THE DAM GOES INTO OPERATION.

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ACTION NEA-10

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O 201020Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5829

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 AMMAN 3593

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR NEA/ONLY VELIOTES FROM PICKERING

(PARA 6) FINALLY, SOME HAVE SEEN THE DAM AS BEING A RISKY PROPOSITION, SINCE IT MIGHT BE DESTROYED IN WAR OR BY SABOTAGE, THUS RISKING THE LIVES OF JORDANIANS, ISRAELIS AND WEST BANK PALESTINIANS WHO LIVE DOWNSTREAM. WE BELIEVE THAT DESTRUCTION OF THE DAM FOR WHATEVER REASON WILL BE SO INJURIOUS TO THE PEOPLE AND INTERESTS OF ANY PARTY AS TO PROVIDE NO SIGNIFICANT RISK IN WARTIME. CERTAINLY IN PEACE TIME, AS WITH OTHER GREAT DAMS IN THIS AREA OF THE WORLD (FOR EXAMPLE THE ASWAN HUGH DAM), THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES WILL EXERT EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE AGAINST SABOTAGE.

(PARA 7) IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER QUESTION I CAN ANSWER OR ISSUE WHICH SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AS YOU CONSIDER THIS HIGHLY IMPORTANT PROJECT FOR JORDAN AND THE REGION, I WOULD BE PLEASED TO HEAR FROM YOU AND DO WHAT I CAN TO RVSPOND. I KNOW OF YOUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE STABILITY AND PROGRESS OF THIS REGION. I BELIEVE THIS PROJECT PRESENTS AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THAT AIM EVEN AS OUR PEACE EFFORTS GO FORWARD. YOUR SUPPORT WILL BE MOST IMPORTANT IN ENSURING THAT OBJECTIVE.  
SINCERELY.

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3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS LETTER IS CAST ON A RATHER  
HIGH LEVEL OF GENERALITY. THEREFORE WE PRESUME THAT  
IT SHOULD BE DELIVERED, IF SUCH IS NECESSARY, BY  
SOMEONE LIKE YOU WHO UNDERSTANDS WHAT THE REMAINING  
POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL ISSUES ARE AND CAN ADD ORALLY  
THAT WITH MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE, WE EXPECT THE DEADLOCKS  
CAN BE BROKEN AND IN ANY EVENT THE ISRAELIS NOW  
AND FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE WILL GET AN AMOUNT OF  
WATER THAT EXCEEDS THE FIGURE THEY ARE PRESENTLY ASKING  
FOR.  
PICKERING

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** DOCUMENTS, TEXT, APPROPRIATIONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
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**Draft Date:** 20 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MAQARIN DAM  
**TAGS:** OREP, PGOV, EAID, JO, US  
**To:** STATE  
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